

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Nucleic acid including a nucleic acid sequence ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOS. 1-9 which is anti-apoptotically active and functional variations of this nucleic acids.
2. - 7. (Canceled)
8. (New) A nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein 100 or less nucleotides are attached in at least one of the 5' and 3' directions to the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 1-9.
9. (New) A nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein 70 or less nucleotides are attached in at least one of the 5' and 3' directions to the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 1-9.
10. (New) A nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein 30 or less nucleotides are attached in at least one of the 5' and 3' directions to the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 1-9.
11. (New) A nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein 20 or less nucleotides are attached in at least one of the 5' and 3' directions to the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 1-9.

12. (New) A nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein 10 or less nucleotides are attached in at least one of the 5' and 3' directions to the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos.

13. (New) Nucleic acid selected from those of SEQ. ID Nos. 1-9.

14. (New) Pharmaceutical preparation comprising a nucleic acid of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutical vehicle.

15. (New) A diagnostic test kit comprising a nucleic acid of claim 1 in combination with positive and negative controls.

16. (New) A method of manufacturing a nucleic acid of claim 1, comprising chemically synthesizing the nucleic acid using a DNA/RNA synthesizer.